

1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Current Intelligence

SUBJECT: Comments on OCI's Graphic Presentation of Middle East Oil Situation

REFERENCE: Memorandum for I/AD's from the AD/CI, subject: "Graphic Presentation of Middle East Oil Situation as of October 1956"

1. The enclosure to the referenced memorandum was of considerable interest to this Office and has been examined in some detail by appropriate officers

2. I understand that some time ago the Cartography Division was approached by OCI with the suggestion that it compile and publish a map containing roughly the type of information included in the referenced graphic presentation. Because of the workload faced by the Division, the OCI representative was told that it would be difficult to undertake such a job at that time. Had there been an indication of priority need, the Division certainly would have undertaken its preparation.

3. The Oil Forum Map of the Middle East published on 10 November shows much of the same information in cartographic form but is, of course, not so readily available and is larger in size. Although the bringing of relevant information together in this general form and scale is very useful for reference purposes, comments of a critical nature have been made which I feel I should forward to you.

a. The presentation lacks proper cartographic design. Some international and other boundaries are either incorrectly shown or omitted, e.g., between Egypt and the Sudan, between the Western and Eastern Aden Protectorates, and at obvious points along the edges of the main graphic.

b. Names of political entities in some cases were not expressed in accordance with accepted procedure, e.g., the designations of the two Somalilands and "Hadramaut" instead of the "Eastern Aden Protectorate."

c. Some information on pipelines and railroads apparently was taken from CIA Map 12382 published in February 1953 without a check with the geographic people which would have improved the currency and accuracy of the map in these respects. Some basic errors in alignment were noted.

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4. The Cartography Division is very cognizant of its responsibility for maintaining high standards of quality in its production of CIA maps and related cartographic materials that are distributed in quantity within the Agency and the Government, either as separates or in CIA publications. Since the referenced graphic presentation comes very close to being a map reproduced for distribution, I should like to suggest that any requirements for this type of presentation in the future be brought to the attention of the Cartography Division, with a clear indication of priority need so that we can perform the desired service in accordance with our responsibility.

5. With reference to coordination with geographic personnel in the determination and selection of locational data, I suggest that, when time permits, your people would find that the geographic analysts have a wealth of current locational information on a variety of subjects. In addition to the comments mentioned earlier in this memorandum, I might call attention to the maps on page 6 of Part II and page 1 of Part III of the Current Intelligence Weekly Summary of 20 December 1956. In the map on page 6 of Part II, for instance, the omission of the producing fields of Wadi Feiran and Balayim in southwestern Sinai was noted. The map on page 1 of Part III also omitted these oil fields and the oil refineries at Baghdad, Alexandria, and Sidon. Of course, your people may have had good reasons for excluding intentionally this information from these illustrations.

6. Let me assure you that the geographic people of this Office are anxious to cooperate substantively, when appropriate, and to fulfill any unusual cartographic requirements analogous to that which resulted in the preparation of the referenced enclosure.

OTTO E. GUTHE
Assistant Director
Research and Reports

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